

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----047495 161810Z /42

O R 160705Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6788

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TH, PINT, PDEV

SUBJ: RHODEISIA- THE STATUS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

REF: PRETORIA 0888

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, THE FEB 15 AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS NOT A FORMALLY SIGNED DOCUMENT. ALTHOUGH ACCORD WAS REACHED ON THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF WHITE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS APPEARED SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED, THE "AGREEMENT" MERELY LAYS THE GROUNDWORK AND PROVIDES THE "PRINCIPLES" ON WHICH THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL BE NEGOTIATED.

2. SMITH, CHIRAU AND SITHOLE SEEM ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD TO A FORMAL AGREEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM
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GOVT, BUT EACH OF THE PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT YESTERDAY AS THE FIRST STEP. THEY FACE WHAT COULD SHAPE UP AS A LONG DRAWN OUT PROCESS. IT HAS TAKEN TWO AND A HALF MONTHS SINCE DEC 2, TO REACH THIS POINT. THE ISSUES OF THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF AN INTERIM GOVT AND THE MAKE-UP OF THE INTERIM AND POST-INDEPENDENCE SECURITY FORCES AND OTHER ISSUES COULD DRAW

OUT THE NEXT PHASES EVEN LONGER.

3. HAVING TAKEN THIS FIRST STEP, HOWEVER, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT MUZOREWA'S RESISTANCE TO SMITH COULD NOW CRUMBLE. THE TICKLISH QUESTION OF SECURITY FORCES COULD BE RESOLVED FAIRLY PROMPTLY. MUZOREWA HAS INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM (PRETORIA 0804), BUT BOTH HE AND SITHOLE HAVE GOOD REASON TO DESIRE A STRONG, ANTI-PF BASE TO THE INDEPENDENCE SECURITY FORMCES. OTHER ISSUES MIGHT ALSO BE RESOLVED FAIRLY QUICKLY, BUT IT DEPENDS ON WHAT SMITH HAS IN MIND FOR THE INTERIM GOVT. NEWS SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVT FOR THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IS VERY MUCH IN EVERYONE'S MINDS AND IS THE KEY OUTSTANDING ISSUE PRIOR TO A FORMAL AGREEMENT. IT IS A POINT THAT HAS NOT, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, BEEN DISCUSSED IN ANY DEPTH DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE, ALTHOUGH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA HAVE REPORTEDLY TABLED OUTLINES ON THE SUBJECT. IF SMITH IS CONSIDERING AN EXPANDED "BROAD-BASED" GOVT AS MINISTER OF MANPOWER CRONJE RECENTLY STATED (PRETORIA 0804), THEN MUZOREWA MAY WELL BALK. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THE BISHOP WILL ALSO REJECT A CO-EQUAL STATUS WITH CHIRAU AND SITHOLE IN A QUADRIPARTITE INTERIM GOVT COUNCIL. IN ANY EVENT, THE CHANCES ARE THAT TOUGH BARGAINING LIES AHEAD. THE PROCESS WILL SHOW HOW FAR AND HOW FAST SMITH IS PREPARED TO MOVE TO GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND WHETHER, AS MAY WELL BE THE CASE (CAPE TOWN 285), MUZOREWA SENSES THE DANGER OF BEING CONFIDENTIAL

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LOCKED INTO AN UNSATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENT.
NELSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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